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cont. end plate of [the]a bone, with side edges lying within the bone inside [the]a densely cortical margins of the bone, and extending in [the]a proximal direction beyond [the]a turning point but without penetrating into regions in which there is more cortical than trabecular bone.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application, claims 1 and 4 having been amended.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-3.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hangartner (U.S. 5,594,775) and, in further view of Stein et al. (U.S. 5,748,705).

One embodiment of the present invention, as defined by claim 4, describes an apparatus for determining the density of a bone. The apparatus determines the density of the bone in a particular region. This region is defined "in the radius and/or ulna so as to have a distal boundary lying distal of the turning point between the radius and ulna but proximal of the dense cortical region of the end plate of the bone, with side edges lying within the bone inside the densely cortical margins of the bone, and extending in the proximal direction beyond the turning point but without penetrating into regions in which there is more cortical than trabecular bone." Although traditionally, the cortical area of the bone was targeted in detecting diseases, the region of the present embodiment of the invention was selected to focus on the trabecular bone in order to obtain the optimal results in diagnosing particular diseases such as osteoporosis. (See specification page 7, lines 23-32).